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MINUTES

MINUTES *of a* COMMITTEE *of the* BOARD *of* AGRICULTURE, *holden* FRIDAY, MARCH 4*th*, 1796.

THIS Committee having taken into conſideration the reference concerning Mr. Fulton's invention, and having examined the Model of his Machines for improving Inland Navigation, by Inclined Planes and various other apparatus, are of opinion:

That the invention is deſerving the attention of thoſe who are engaged in the buſineſs of forming Inland Navigations.

The above Reſolution was afterwards confirmed by the Board of Agriculture, at its meeting on the 8th of March following.

JOHN SINCLAIR, Preſident.

TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

WHEN a ſubject is firſt brought forward, which has the appearance of novelty, however ſound and rational the principle may be on which it reſts, yet it is with much difficulty the prejudice in favour of eſtabliſhed practice can be removed. The frequent failure of new deſigns alſo ſtrengthens the arguments of oppoſition, and ſeems to juſtify thoſe who are diſpoſed to perſiſt in the habits of their anceſtors.

On the other ſide, a warm imagination is the uſual companion of thoſe by whom any new plan is formed; hence it becomes neceſſary

ROBERT FULTON *Canal Navigation* LONDON, 1796 THE BANCROFT LIBRARY Octavo